stroyed.—*Ed. Med. and Surg. Journ.* from the *Dublin Journal of Medical Sciences*, July, 1840.

MATERIA MEDICA AND PHARMACY.

9. *Preparation and Employment of the Sesqui-Ioduret of Iron.*—M. Oberdoerffer, a pharmaceutist of Hamburgh, gives the following formula for the preparation of this salt, which he says may be preserved a long time without decomposing:—Mix in a glass vessel half an ounce of iodine, a drachm and a half of iron filing, and an ounce of water; when the reaction is completed, the mixture is to be slightly shaken until it becomes of a clear green colour, due to the ioduret of iron. Then dilute it with four ounces of water, filter and also pass some water through the filter. Afterwards add to the solution two drachms of iodine, which is readily and quickly dissolved. A deep reddish brown liquor results, to which a sufficient quantity of water is added to make the weight of the whole ten ounces. Each drachm contains about four grains and a half of iodine. This preparation has been long employed at the General Hospital, Hamburgh; its effects are the same as those of the ioduret of iron; it must be given internally, however, in smaller doses. The best form for its administration is in syrup.—*Zeitschrift für die gesammte Médicin*, June, 1840.

In our Number for February last, (p. 449,) we gave a formula for a syrup of ioduret of iron, which, from considerable experience, we can recommend as a most valuable preparation. It can be preserved for a long time without becoming decomposed, and produces the best effects of the two articles which enter into its composition. The comparative value of this and the sesqui-ioduret must be decided by future experience.

10. *Socotrine Aloes.*—"This plant (the aloe) has rendered Socotra famous from the earliest period. It is found growing on the side and summits of the limestone mountains, at an elevation of from 500 to 3000 feet above the level of the plains. The plant appears to thrive only in parched and barren places; its leaves are plucked at any period, and, after being placed in a skin, the juice is suffered to exude from them. This is afterwards carried principally to Muscat, where the price varies according to the quality, from two to four shillings the English pound. Socotrine aloes, if care were taken in collecting them, would be the finest in the world; but this is not the case, and their value becomes proportionably deteriorated.

"When the authority of the sultans of Kisseen was better acknowledged than at present, they monopolized the whole produce of the island, and stone walls, dividing its surface into separate portions, were carried with immense labour over hill and dale. These still remain, but now any one collects the plant, when or where he thinks proper, and this they only care to do when the arrival of a ship or buggalo creates a demand. Every part of the island affords this useful plant, but more especially the western, where the surface is thickly covered for miles. In 1833, only two tons were exported."—*Wellsted's Tour on the Island of Socotra.* T. R. B.

11. *Dragon's Blood.*—"The trees of this are not usually met with at a less elevation than 800 feet, and they frequently occur as high as 3000 feet above the level of the sea. The trunk, at the height of six feet from the ground, varies from twelve to eighteen inches in diameter, and its height is from ten to twenty feet. The gum exudes spontaneously from the tree, and it does not appear usual on any occasion to make incisions in order to procure it. Two kinds were shown me; one of a dark crimson colour, called *moselle*, is esteemed the best, and its price at Muscat is from six to eight rupees, the Bengal seers. I was frequently assured, that not one-tenth of the quantity which might be pro-

cured was ever collected by the Bedowins. As with the aloes, this appears to be consequent on there being no regular demand."—*Ibid.* T. R. B.

12. *Ointment for Itch.*—Dr. De la Harpe, chief physician of the Hospital of Lausanne, gives in the *Gazette Médicale de Paris* (July, 1840,) the following formula for an ointment which he says he has very successfully employed in the treatment of upwards of 400 patients. Flowers of sulphur 16 parts, sulphate of zinc 2 parts, powder of white hellebore 4 parts, soft soap 31 parts, lard 62 parts.

The mean duration of treatment with this ointment was in 1836 eighteen, in 1837 fifteen, in 1838 eleven, and in 1839 ten days.

MEDICAL PATHOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS, AND PRACTICAL MEDICINE.

13. *Spasm of the Glottis dependent on some unknown sympathy, or some remote influence possessing no traceable communication.*—Professor Porter made some interesting observations on this subject to the Surgical Society of Ireland, a report of which we transfer to our pages from the *Dublin Medical Press*, (29 Ap. 1840.)

The records of surgery, Prof. Porter remarked, are full of cases which lead us to believe in the existence of this affection. A very remarkable case of the kind is given by Mr Kirby in the second volume of the Dublin Hospital Reports, in which a piece of beef stopped in the œsophagus below the cricoid cartilage, and in which the man died of spasm of the glottis without any sign or appearance of pressure on the larynx sufficient to account for death. Dr. Stokes gives a case of spasm of the larynx from the stoppage of a piece of money in the œsophagus. Perhaps one of the most satisfactory cases of the kind occurred in a child which was left alone in a room by its mother, playing about. On her return, she found it in a state of suffocation, and brought it to the Meath Hospital. On examining the fauces, I thought I could feel something in the œsophagus. I administered a brisk emetic, and this iron ring which I hold was thrown up out of the œsophagus. The child was suffering from violent spasm, and would, in all probability, have died if the ring had not been rejected, and yet any one who inspects it will perceive at once that it could not produce such a degree of pressure on the œsophagus as to endanger life. Another case in which a piece of soft bread stuck in the œsophagus of a child was attended with similar symptoms of suffocation, and relief was obtained by pushing it down into the stomach with a probang. All these cases you will say are presumptive, but not positive proofs of the affection I speak of. I turn now to two cases to prove that there may be such a thing as spasm of the larynx from such influence, and that this unknown sympathy may be carried so far as to destroy life. In July, 1837, I was called to see a case of acute laryngitis; the case was attended by myself and a gentleman well known as an excellent stethoscopist. I went, and finding the man in a state of suffocation, opened the trachea. He was pronounced by the stethoscopist to be labouring under acute laryngitis. After the operation the man expressed great relief; he appeared as well as any person I ever saw after an operation, and yet in the course of three days he died. On examination after death, I found the larynx as sound and healthy as ever I had seen it in my life; death had been produced by the bursting of an aneurism of the aorta. Yet, so urgent were the symptoms of spasm of the glottis, that the man would have died in a few hours if he had not been operated on. But perhaps this case does not go far enough. It may be said, that the aneurismal tumour might have pressed on the recurrent nerve, and that this by paralysing one set of muscular fibres might have caused the rest to act spasmodically.

I come now to speak of a different case altogether, a case in which there could be no pressure likely to affect the functions of the glottis. I think it was in the